Research and Results for the Robert B. Shields of Livingston County, Illinois

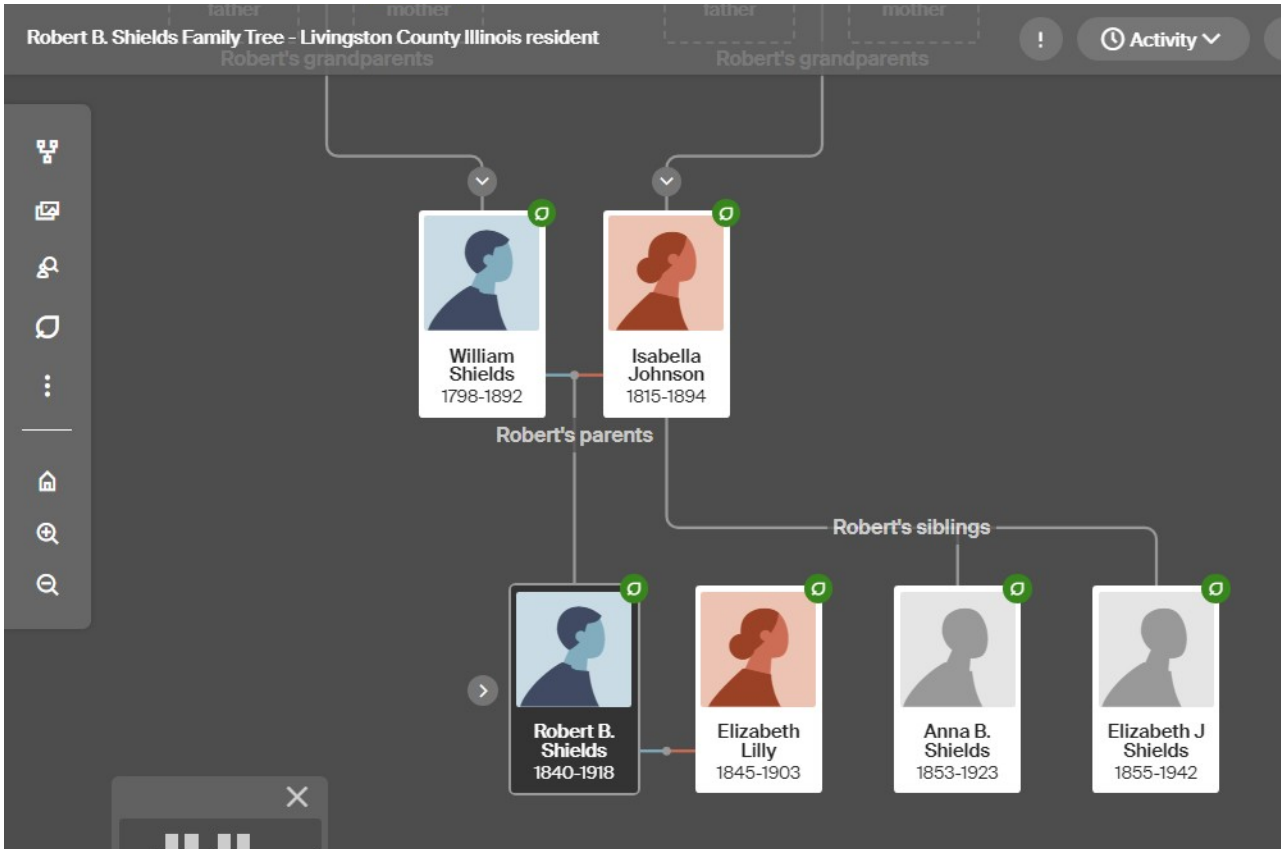
Genealogy Request

MR. MALEY, I AM TRYING TO TAKE BACK ROBERT B. SHIELDS 1840-1918 AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH B LILLY 1845-1905 AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.I AM WORKING OFF OF ANCESTRY AND WOULD LIKE COPIES OF ANY MILITARY,ESTATE SALE MARITAL, ETC RECORDS. THEY SPENT MANY YEARS IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ROOKS CREEK, SAUNEMIN, PONTIAC AREAS. I AM UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYTHING ON FIND. POSSIBLY THEY ARE BURIED IN THE PONTIAC CATHOLIC CEMETERY?

ALSO I AM LOOKING TO TAKE BACK BRIDGET WOODS OR WOOD 1874-1934 WHO WAS MARRIED TO FRED SETZER 1874- ?

Family Tree in Ancestry.com

I created a family tree in Ancestry.com:



Timeline:

1798 William Shields born in Ireland

William Shields ☆

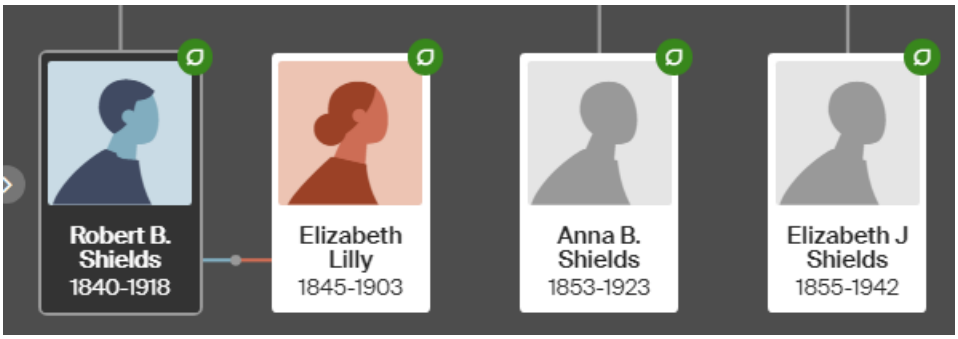
B: 1798 Ireland
D: Oct 1892 McLean County, Illinois, USA

1815 Isabella Johnson, wife of William Shields, born in Ireland also

Isabella Johnson ☆

B: abt 1815 Ireland
D: 9 February 1894 Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, United States of America

1840 Robert B. Shields born in Ireland
Sister Anna B. Shields born in McLean County in 1853
Sister Elizabeth J. Shields also born in McLean County in 1855
This indicates the family had moved from Ireland to Livingston County by 1853.



1842 Per Robert B. Shields obit, he emigrated from Ireland to Baltimore when very young. Since he was born in Ireland in 1840, I will guess around 1842 they emigrated.

1845 Elizabeth Lilly born. She would marry Robert B. Shields

Elizabeth Lilly ☆

B: 1845
D: 5 Jun 1903 Saunemin, Livingston, Illinois, USA

1850 William Shields family emigrated from Baltimore to Holder in McLean County per obit of Robert Shields.

1865 Robert Shields served in 1865 in Civil War per State of Illinois database. See separate PDF file for this service record. His obit said he enlisted in 1861, but did not find this record in the Illinois database. It may be under a different Robert Shields name? Obit said he was wounded at Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

1865 Robert Shields moved to Saunemin and farmed after Civil War per his obit.

1873 Nov. 4, 1873. Robert B. Shields married Elizabeth Lilly. He was 33 and she was 28 when they married. They had 5 children per his July 1, 1918, obit in pantagraph.

1892 October 4, 1892. William Shields dies at age of 94.

The Pantagraph
Fri, Oct 07, 1892 ·Page 7

—The children of the late Mr. William Shields, of Old Town, whose death occurred Tuesday evening are Mrs. Stephens, of this city, Robert, Annie, Jane and Samuel Shields.

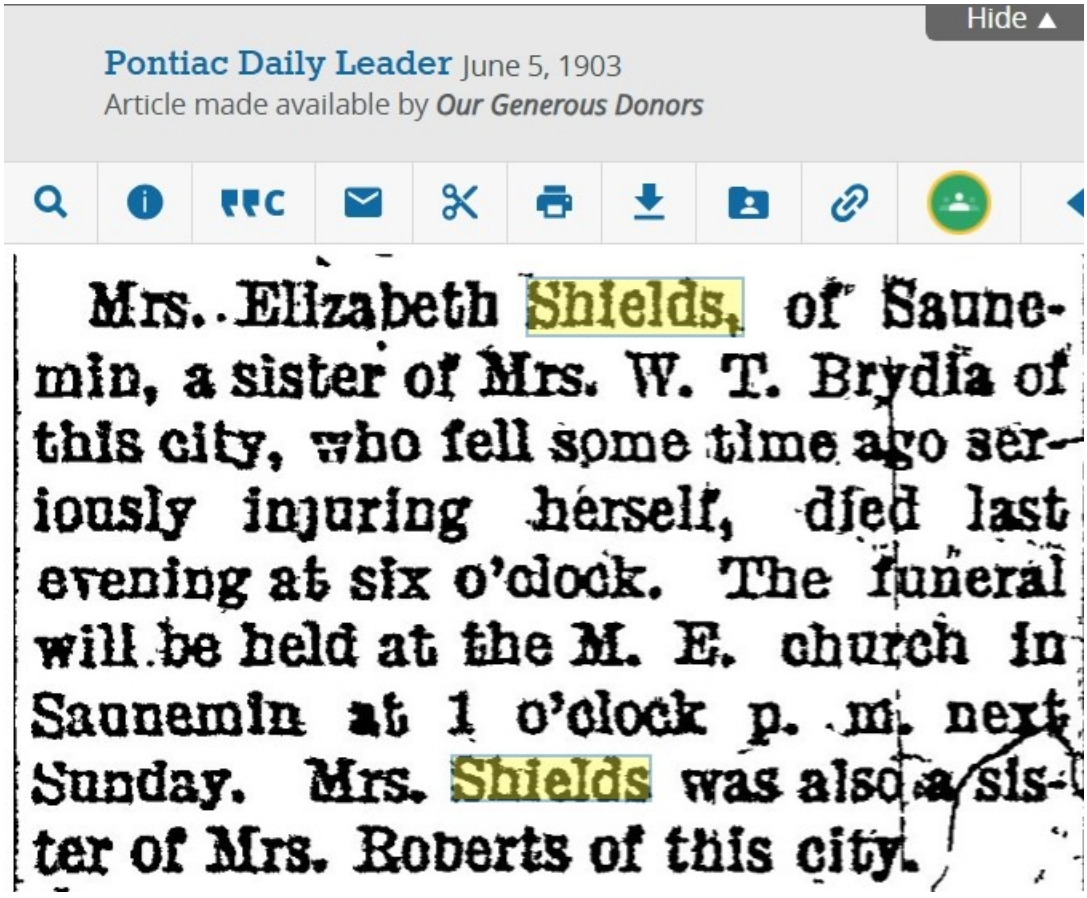
1894 Isabella Shields dies at age of 79. Feb 10, 1894 pantagraph:

Death of Mrs. Isabelle Shields.

—Mrs. Isabelle Shields, wife of the late Mr. William Shields, of Old Town, passed away at 5 p. m. Friday at her home No. 608 South East street. She was taken with a severe attack of the grip several weeks ago and had been a constant sufferer ever since. Since the death of her husband, over one year ago, she has resided in this city with her two daughters. Previous to that time they lived near Holder for a period of over forty years. Mrs. Shields was at one time an attendant of the Presbyterian church, of which she was a member, but for the last few years she had been confined more or less to her home. Mrs. Shields was in her 79th year. She was the mother of nine children, of whom the following are living: Mrs. Sarah Stevens, of this city; Mr. Robert Shields, of Kankakee, and the Misses Annie and Jennie Shields, of this city. She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed and sincerely mourned by those who were near and dear to her.

I only have William Shields with 5 children, maybe 4 died in infancy?

1903 June 5, 1903, Elizabeth Lilly, wife of Robert Shields, died in Saunemin at age of 58. Her obit: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Pontiac Daily Leader June 5, 1903
Article made available by Our Generous Donors
Mrs. Elizabeth Shields, of Saunemin, a sister of Mrs. W. T. Brydia of this city, who fell some time ago seriously injuring herself, died last evening at six o'clock. The funeral will be held at the M. E. church in Saunemin at 1 o'clock p. m. next Sunday. Mrs. Shields was also a sister of Mrs. Roberts of this city.

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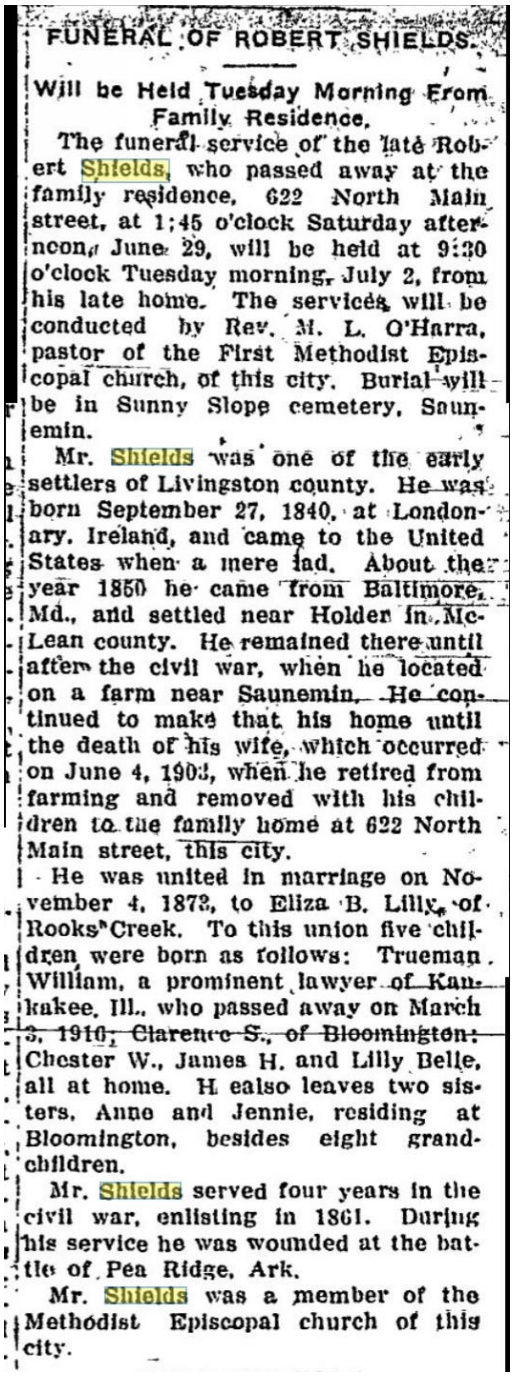
Pontiac Daily Leader June 11, 1903
Article made available by *Our Generous Donors*

The funeral services of Mrs. Robert Shields were held at the M. E. church last Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The house was filled with friends and neighbors. Rev. Shaw conducted the obsequies. The remains were laid to rest in Sunny Slope cemetery.

Per obit of Robert Shields, after death of his wife, he moved to 622 North Main Street in Bloomington.

1918 July 1, 1918, Robert Shields died at age of 77. His obit in Pantagraph:



FUNERAL OF ROBERT SHIELDS.

Will be Held Tuesday Morning From Family Residence.

The funeral service of the late Robert Shields, who passed away at the family residence, 622 North Main street, at 1:45 o'clock Saturday afternoon, June 29, will be held at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, July 2, from his late home. The services will be conducted by Rev. M. L. O'Harra, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of this city. Burial will be in Sunny Slope cemetery, Saunemin.

Mr. Shields was one of the early settlers of Livingston county. He was born September 27, 1840, at Londonary, Ireland, and came to the United States when a mere lad. About the year 1850 he came from Baltimore, Md., and settled near Holder in McLean county. He remained there until after the civil war, when he located on a farm near Saunemin. He continued to make that his home until the death of his wife, which occurred on June 4, 1903, when he retired from farming and removed with his children to the family home at 622 North Main street, this city.

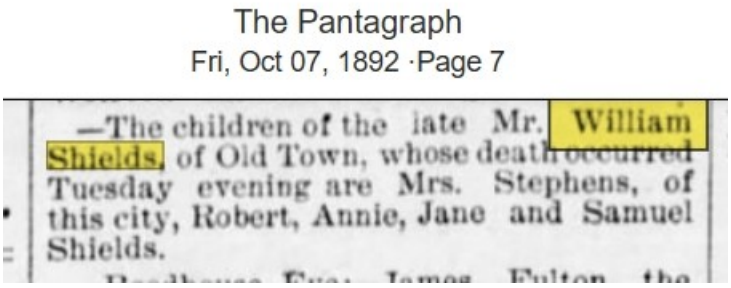
He was united in marriage on November 4, 1873, to Eliza B. Lilly, of Rooks Creek. To this union five children were born as follows: Trueman William, a prominent lawyer of Kankakee, Ill., who passed away on March 3, 1910; Clarence S., of Bloomington; Chester W., James H. and Lilly Belle, all at home. H ealso leaves two sisters, Anne and Jennie, residing at Bloomington, besides eight grandchildren.

Mr. Shields served four years in the civil war, enlisting in 1861. During his service he was wounded at the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.

Mr. Shields was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of this city.

General Research to Support the Timeline development above

Any Obit for William Shields who died in October of 1892 in McLean County?



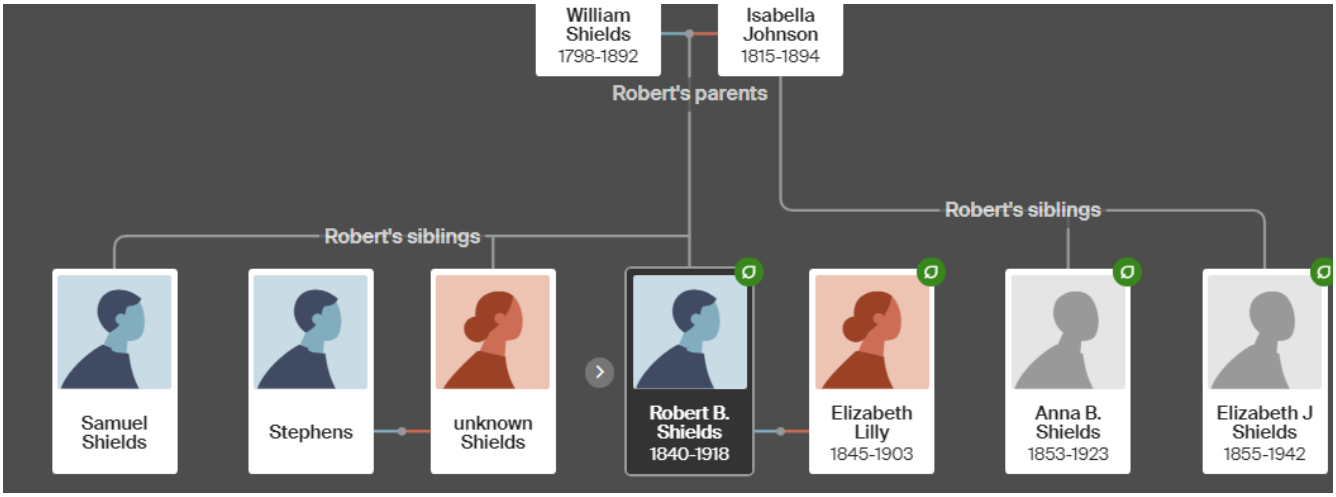
The Pantagraph
Fri, Oct 07, 1892 ·Page 7

—The children of the late Mr. William Shields, of Old Town, whose death occurred Tuesday evening are Mrs. Stephens, of this city, Robert, Annie, Jane and Samuel Shields.

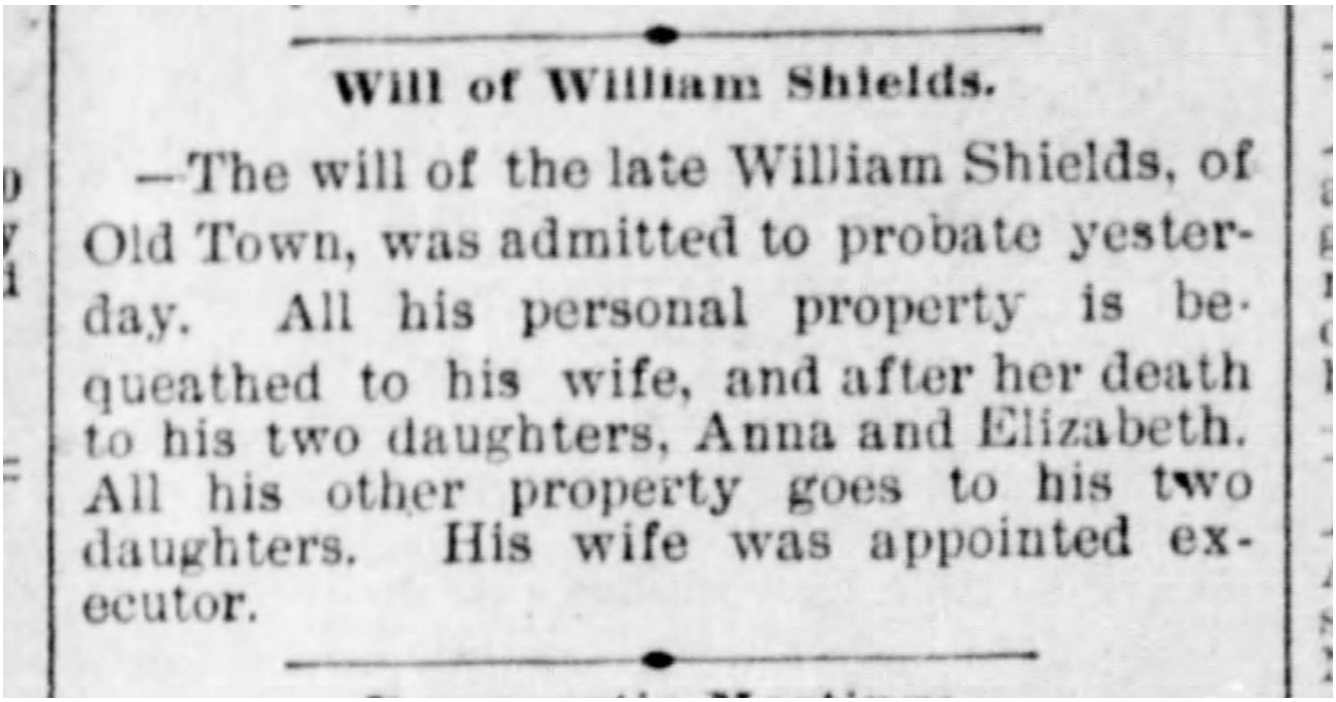
I could not find a death notice or obit for him in the Pantagraph using Newspapers.com. According to this 10/7/1892 article, he died on the tuesday before friday oct 7, 1892. This means he died on October 4, 1892.

I can modify the family tree to include the children of William Shields also.

I assume, that deadly word, that Jane is really Elizabeth J. Shields?



October 28, 1892 Pantagraph article related to death of William Shields



Will of William Shields.

—The will of the late William Shields, of Old Town, was admitted to probate yesterday. All his personal property is bequeathed to his wife, and after her death to his two daughters, Anna and Elizabeth. All his other property goes to his two daughters. His wife was appointed executor.

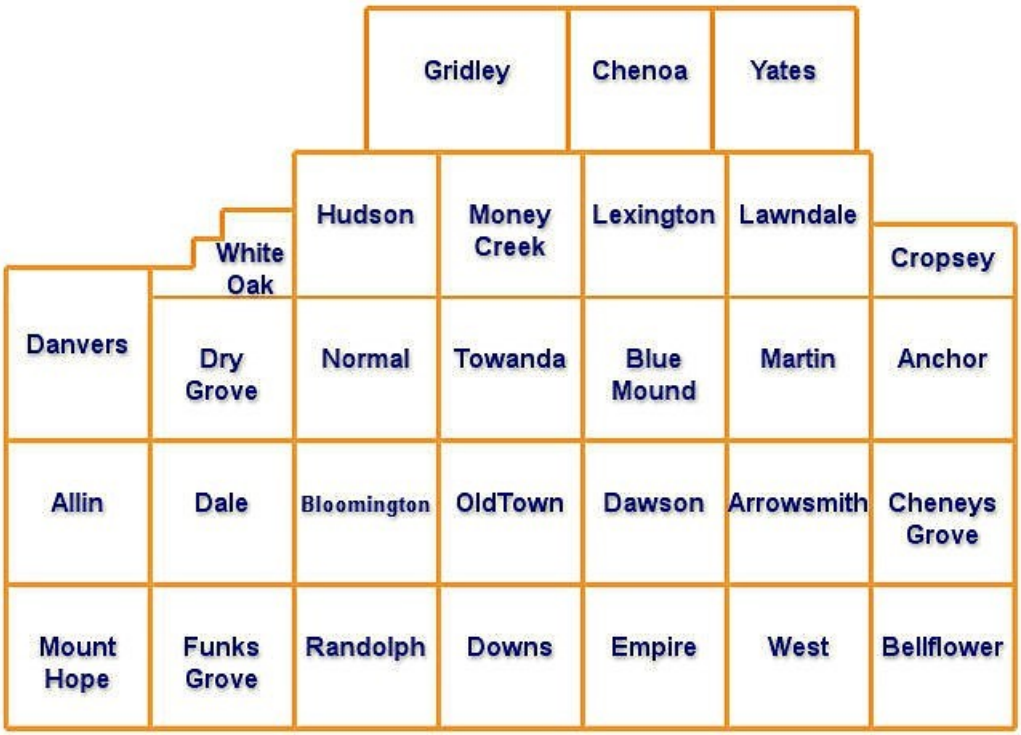
Where is Old Town in McLean County?

AI Overview

Old Town Township is located in the center of McLean County, Illinois. The township hall is located at **22034 E 1000 North Rd, Downs, IL 61736**.

Explanation

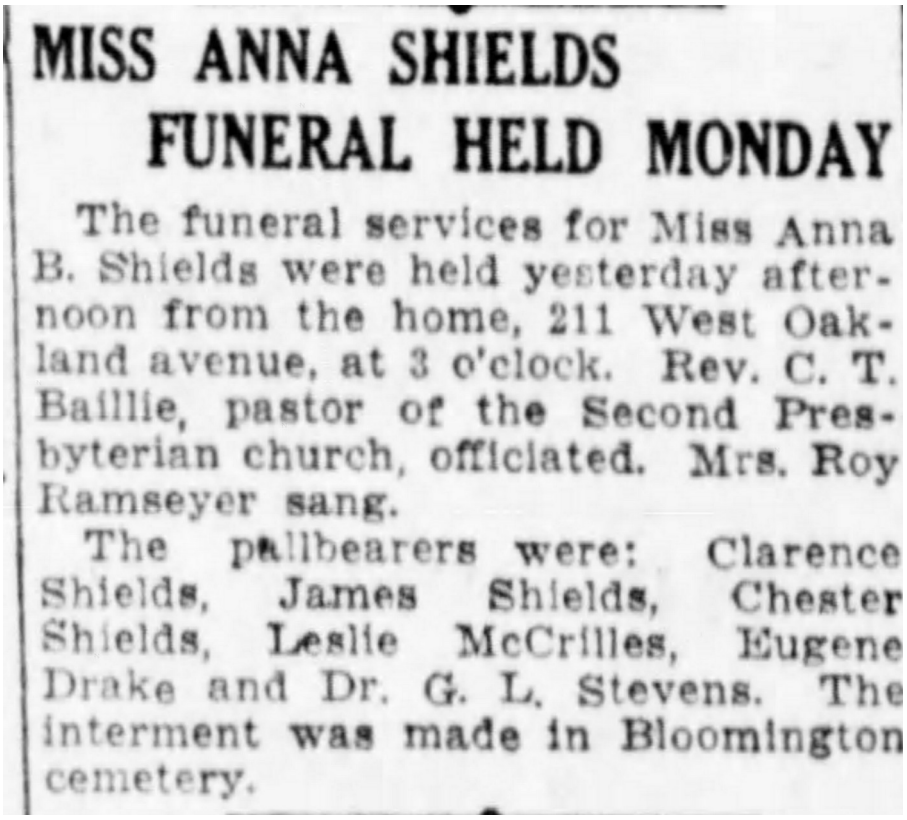
- Old Town Township is a township in McLean County, Illinois.
- It's responsible for maintaining roads and bridges, assessing real property, and administering the General Assistance Program.



Looks like Old Town Township is just east of present day Bloomington, Illinois.

Wonder why William Shields left stuff to his wife, his 2 daughters and nothing to his 2 sons and married daughter? He was 94 when he died.

Anna Shields never married per her obit in Pantagraph in 1923:

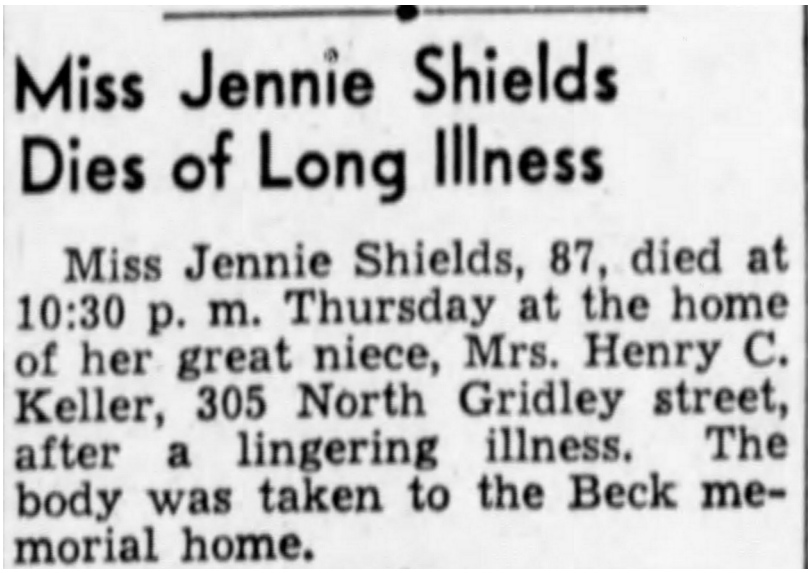


MISS ANNA SHIELDS FUNERAL HELD MONDAY

The funeral services for Miss Anna B. Shields were held yesterday afternoon from the home, 211 West Oakland avenue, at 3 o'clock. Rev. C. T. Baillie, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, officiated. Mrs. Roy Ramseyer sang.

The pallbearers were: Clarence Shields, James Shields, Chester Shields, Leslie McCrilles, Eugene Drake and Dr. G. L. Stevens. The interment was made in Bloomington cemetery.

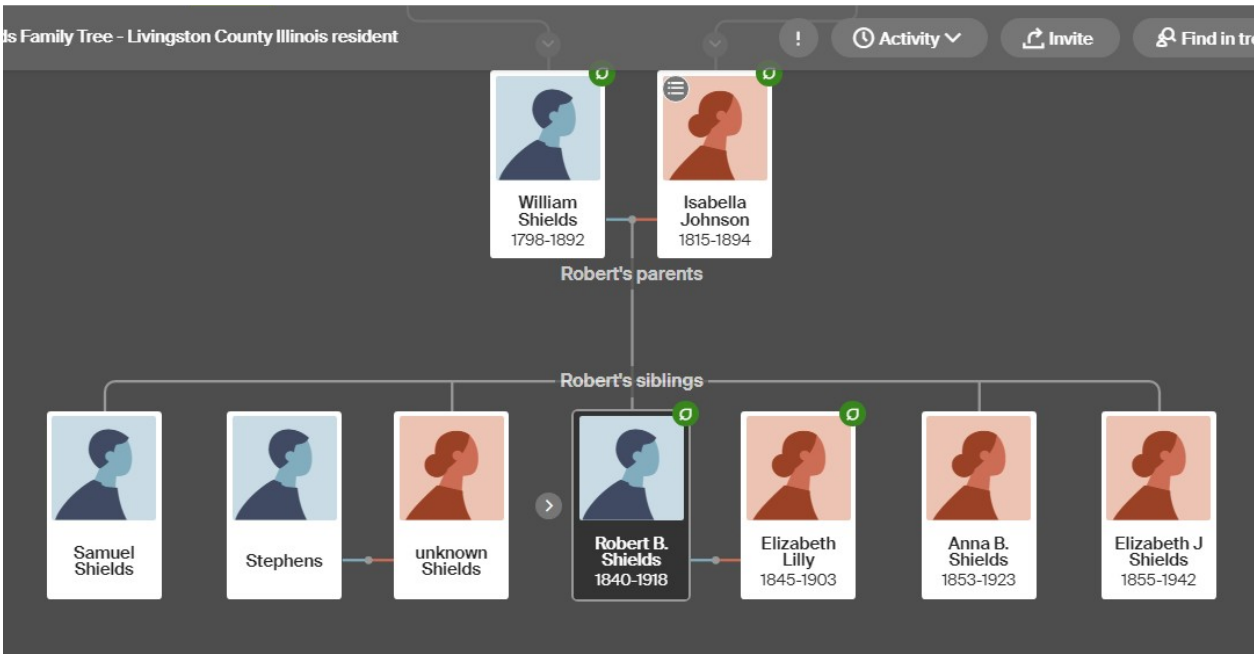
Did other daughter never marry either? No, she did not per her 1942 pantagraph obit:



Miss Jennie Shields Dies of Long Illness

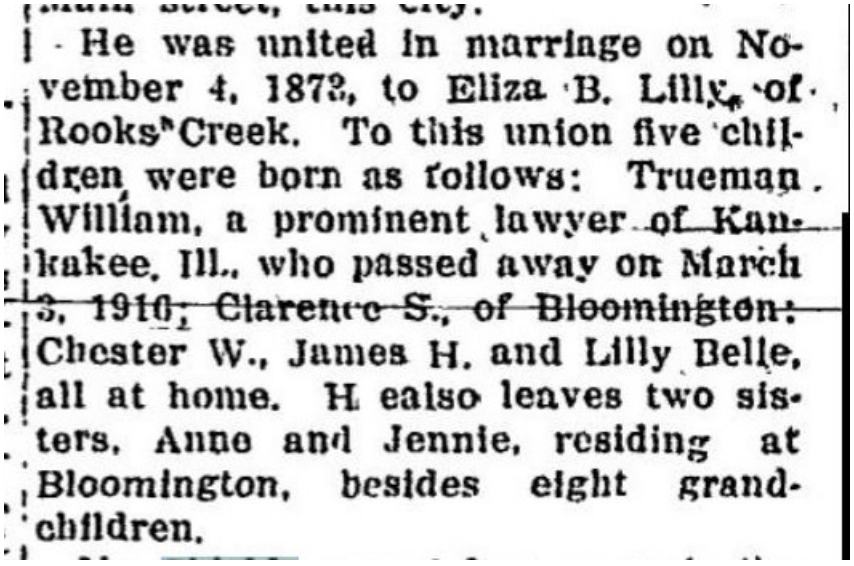
Miss Jennie Shields, 87, died at 10:30 p. m. Thursday at the home of her great niece, Mrs. Henry C. Keller, 305 North Gridley street, after a lingering illness. The body was taken to the Beck memorial home.

Fix Family Tree on Ancestry.com



Still need to figure out children for Robert B. Shields

per his july 1, 1918 obit:



He was united in marriage on November 4, 1872, to Eliza B. Lilly, of Rooks Creek. To this union five children were born as follows: Trueman, William, a prominent lawyer of Kankakee, Ill., who passed away on March 3, 1916; Clarence S., of Bloomington; Chester W., James H. and Lilly Belle, all at home. He ealso leaves two sisters, Anne and Jennie, residing at Bloomington, besides eight grandchildren.

What about Civil War service of Robert Shields?

State of illinois web site to search for veterans is……..

https://apps.ilsos.gov/isaveterans/civilmustersrch.jsp

ilsos.gov

SHIELDS, ROBBERT	PVT	B	150 IL US INF	OLDTOWN, MCLEAN CO, IL
SHIELDS, ROBERT	CPL	C	106 IL US INF	LINCOLN, LOGAN CO, IL
SHIELDS, ROBERT	PVT	F	30 IL US INF	MARSHALL, CLARK CO, IL
SHIELDS, ROBERT	PVT	H	7 IL US INF	
SHIELDS, ROBERT A	PVT	F	30 IL US INF	MARSHALL, CLARK CO, IL
SHIELDS, ROBERT H	PVT	B	14 IL US INF CON	LEE, BROWN CO, IL
SHIELDS, ROBERT H	PVT	G	3 IL US CAV	

see separate PDF file on his 1865 service record.

Any McLean County history references to Shield family since early settlers there?

1879 History Book:

No hits on Shield.

1887 book

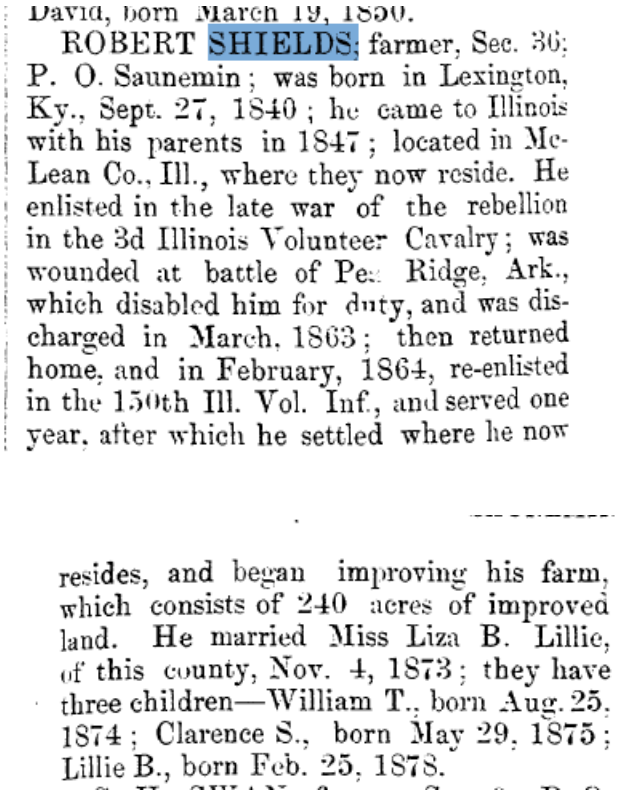
No hits

1899 book

No hits.

Any Livingston County history book references to Shields family?

1878 book



David, born March 19, 1850.

ROBERT SHIELDS; farmer, Sec. 36; P. O. Saunemin; was born in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 27, 1840; he came to Illinois with his parents in 1847; located in McLean Co., Ill., where they now reside. He enlisted in the late war of the rebellion in the 3d Illinois Volunteer Cavalry; was wounded at battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., which disabled him for duty, and was discharged in March, 1863; then returned home, and in February, 1864, re-enlisted in the 150th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served one year, after which he settled where he now resides, and began improving his farm, which consists of 240 acres of improved land. He married Miss Liza B. Lillie, of this county, Nov. 4, 1873; they have three children—William T., born Aug. 25, 1874; Clarence S., born May 29, 1875; Lillie B., born Feb. 25, 1878.

So, can I find him in the Illinois veteran database as first serving in the 3d cavalry?

No, I could not find it. Further searching might find his first enlistment.

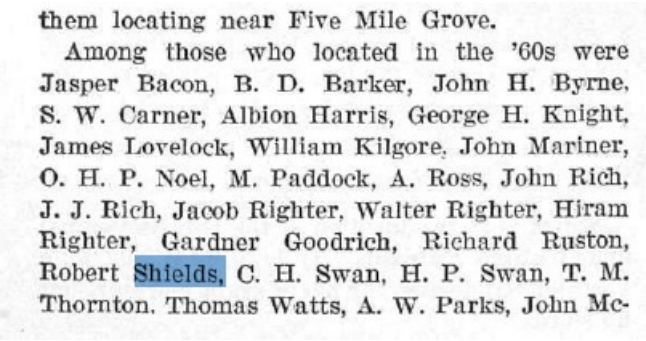
1888 Book

There is long bio which includes the family history of the Lilly family. I will make a separate PDF file of this bio.

1900 Book

no hits

1909 Vol. 2 book



them locating near Five Mile Grove.

Among those who located in the '60s were Jasper Bacon, B. D. Barker, John H. Byrne, S. W. Carner, Albion Harris, George H. Knight, James Lovelock, William Kilgore, John Mariner, O. H. P. Noel, M. Paddock, A. Ross, John Rich, J. J. Rich, Jacob Righter, Walter Righter, Hiram Righter, Gardner Goodrich, Richard Ruston, Robert Shields, C. H. Swan, H. P. Swan, T. M. Thornton, Thomas Watts, A. W. Parks, John Mc-

also a ¾ page long bio for Robert Shield. Will make separate PDF file for that one.

Any Land purchases?

You can search and see if someone bought land from the federal government using this site:

https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx

I checked McLean County for any purchases by William Shields, found none.

Then checked Livingston County for any purchases by Robert Shields, found none.

Dale C. Maley
January 15, 2025